

Appl. No. 10/035,551
Amdt. Dated Aug. 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:
an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part which is bent to obtain a desired attenuation;
a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto;
two optical connectors respectively aligned with opposite ends of the optical fiber; and
a housing having a cover and a frame to receive the fixture therein; wherein
the fixture comprises a rear supporting portion, a central retaining portion, and two holders for engaging with two corresponding optical connectors, respectively,
wherein
the optical connectors are partially engaged in the housing.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 2, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 4 (canceled)

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Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially semicircular.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially coiled.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 1, wherein each of the two holders has a through hole for passage of the optical fiber and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain corresponding parts of the optical fiber, respectively.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): An optical attenuator comprising:
an optical fiber comprising an attenuating part bent to obtain a desired attenuation;
a fixture fixing the optical fiber thereto and comprising two front holders;
two optical connectors respectively aligning with opposite ends of the optical fiber and engaging with the holders of the fixture, respectively; and

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a housing including a cover and a frame;
wherein the fixture is received in the housing; wherein
the optical connectors are partially engaged in the housing.

Claim 13 (original): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the optical connectors is a subscriber connector plug connector.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially semicircular.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein the attenuating part of the optical fiber is configured to be substantially coiled.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): The optical attenuator as described in claim 12, wherein each of the holders has a through hole for passage of optical fiber, and the fixture defines two grooves in communication with the through holes of the two holders to retain corresponding parts of the optical fiber respectively.

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Claim 20 (previously presented): A method of making an attenuator comprising the steps of:

providing a pair of juxtaposed fiber connectors with mating ports facing to a same direction;

connecting rear ends of said pair of connectors with an optical fiber;

securing the fiber in a fixture around two opposite end portions thereof;

forming a curved portion between said two end portions;

adjusting radii or turns of said curved portion for obtaining a desired attenuation value;

permanently fixing said curved portion to a supporting portion by adhesive in position without changing a configuration thereof; and

packaging said fixture and said fiber connectors in a housing having a frame and a cover mating therewith.